AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original) A screw or a tapping screw characterized in having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size and a nitride layer in a surface part.

Claim 2 (Original) The screw or the tapping screw according to claim 1, characterized in the ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 1 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The screw or the tapping screw according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that a nitride layer in the surface part has a 100 μm or less thickness.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The screw or the tapping screw according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that hardness of the nitride layer of the surface part is 450 or more in Vickers hardness.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 6 (Original) The production method for a screw or a tapping screw according to claim 5, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 500°C to 550°C.

Claim 7 (New) The screw or the tapping screw according to claim 2, characterized in that a nitride layer in the surface part has a 100 μm or less thickness.

Claim 8 (New) The screw or the tapping screw according to claim 2, characterized in that hardness of the nitride layer of the surface part is 450 or more in Vickers hardness.

Claim 9 (New) The screw or the tapping screw according to claim 3, characterized in that hardness of the nitride layer of the surface part is 450 or more in Vickers hardness.

Claim 10 (New) The screw or the tapping screw according to claim 7, characterized in that hardness of the nitride layer of the surface part is 450 or more in Vickers hardness.

Claim 11 (New) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 2, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 12 (New) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 3, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 13 (New) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 7, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 14 (New) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 4, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 15 (New) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 8, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 16 (New) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 9, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C

to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 17 (New) A production method for the screw or tapping screw according to claim 10, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 480°C to 590°C to a compact of a screw or a tapping screw having an ultra fine structure of ferrite grains having a 3 μm or less average grain size.

Claim 18 (New) The production method for a screw or a tapping screw according to claim 11, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 500°C to 550°C.

Claim 19 (New) The production method for a screw or a tapping screw according to claim 12, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 500°C to 550°C.

Claim 20 (New) The production method for a screw or a tapping screw according to claim 13, characterized in that a low temperature soft-nitriding process is applied at a temperature of 500°C to 550°C.